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for 1st September 1949. On certain representations, the Government have re-examined the question and they have since decided to allow Madras scales of pay from 1st January 1949 to all the qualified staff who were allowed to draw such scales from 1st September 1949. Orders are accordingly being issued. State employees who were eligible for the Madras scales of pay according to the general principles and who were absorbed prior to 14th October 1949 were allowed re-fixation of pay with effect from 1st January 1949. Those who had not been absorbed and about whom proposals were pending with the Government on that date including those lacking requisite departmental qualifications were allowed to draw Madras scales of pay with effect from 1st September 1949. As it was considered that allowing the Madras scales of pay to persons who had not been actually absorbed by 14th October 1949 was a pure concession, the orders were not given retrospective effect for any period prior to 1st September 1949. The orders applied equally to all the departments."

Disafforestation in Repalle taluk.

* 208-D *Q.*—SRI V. SRI KRISHNA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state with reference to the reply to starred question No. 65 on 5th November 1952, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA:—" A report from the Chief Conservator of Forests has since been received and the matter is under consideration."

SRI V. SRI KRISHNA:—" Sir, during the last session also when the same question was put the Hon. Minister replied that the matter was under consideration. Since then nearly six months have elapsed and may I know how long will it be under the consideration of the Government? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA:—" I believe, during the last session, it was stated that the matter was under consideration, because the Chief Conservator of Forests was asked to go and inspect the area. The Government have received a large number of applications for disreservation of forests in the Guntur district at Ottapal, Aduguladi and a number of other places and so the Conservator was requested to go and immediately report after inspection of the areas."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" May I know, Sir, the summary of the report which the Conservator gave? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA:—" It is still under consideration and I cannot say anything about it now."

SRI V. SRI KRISHNA:—" Sir, is the Minister aware of the fact that the District Forest Officer has already rejected the applications of local people? "

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THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" We have now received the report of the Chief Conservator and that is being examined."

Questions 208-E and 213—

MR. SPEAKER :—" Question No. 208-E and the other question No. 213 are similar. They may be taken up together and supplementaries may be put on both the questions. I think, therefore, it is better that the Hon. Chief Minister answers both these questions together."

Police ' Strike ' in Madras.

* 208-E *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many constables were involved in the recent Police strike in Madras; and

(*b*) against how many, departmental action has been taken and how many have been prosecuted or detained?

* 213 *Q.*—SRI VAVILALA GOPALAKRISHNAIAH: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was a Police strike at Madras in December 1952;

(*b*) if so, how many struck work;

(*c*) how many have been detained; and

(*d*) how many have been punished?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" (*a*) & (*b*). The members of the City Police refused to draw their pay for December 1952 and there was considerable unrest but no stoppage of work. The facts have all appeared in press notes issued by Government from time to time.

" (*c*) Fifty-one were detained of whom 30 have since been released.

" (*d*) So far 51 men have been departmentally punished. I think I have replied to both the questions."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I think these questions came up before the House a number of times, though in different forms."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" But, all the same quite a number of supplementaries have to be asked because from time to time the position also changes."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, of the police constables who have been manhandled and forced to take salaries, how many participated in the strike and how many have been ousted from service since then? Is there a proposal to reinstate those constables who have been victimized?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" All these presumptions are wrong. But as regards reinstatement and all